



May 10, 2005

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Statement**
WC Docket No. 04-36

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 9, 2005, Tom Sugrue, on behalf of T-Mobile USA, Inc. (T-Mobile), spoke via telephone with Michelle Carey, Legal Advisor to Chairman Kevin Martin of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission). The purpose of the conversation was to discuss 9-1-1 requirements for IP-enabled services and, in particular, for mobile/voice over IP (VoIP) services.

I made the following points to Ms. Carey concerning the delivery of 9-1-1 calls over mobile/VoIP platforms:

- 1) While T-Mobile is not currently a VoIP provider, there are a number of promising technologies in development that will permit the offering of VoIP services in conjunction with a commercial mobile radio service (CMRS). Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA), which is a set of industry standards and protocols recently developed for the delivery of GSM/GPRS services over Bluetooth or WiFi platforms, is one example of such a promising new technology.¹
- 2) Although it is likely that in a vast majority of circumstances, a CMRS provider deploying a UMA-based VoIP service should be able to route 9-1-1 calls to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) over its CMRS network, there may be instances where calls cannot be routed in this manner.
- 3) UMA is not currently deployed by any carrier. As a result, there is absolutely no need to subject UMA-based VoIP services to a set of 9-1-1 rules at this time.

¹ “Unlicensed Mobile Access (UMA) technology provides access to GSM and GPRS mobile services over unlicensed spectrum technologies, including Bluetooth and 802.11. By deploying UMA technology, service providers can enable subscribers to roam and handover between cellular networks and public and private unlicensed wireless networks using dual-mode mobile handsets. With UMA, subscribers receive consistent user experience for their mobile voice and data services as they transition between networks.”
UMA website, www.umatechnology.org/overview

- 4) T-Mobile and other parties interested in UMA and similar technologies are actively working on the issue of how best to deliver a 9-1-1 call to a PSAP in relatively few cases where the carrier's CMRS network is not available. A number of approaches are being considered and new capabilities are being developed and tested to address this issue.
- 5) Mobile VoIP applications that are integrated with a CMRS service present certain unique challenges (*e.g.*, because of mobility) but also certain unique opportunities (because of widespread deployment of CMRS networks) for E9-1-1 calling.
- 6) The solutions that are developed for fixed or even nomadic VoIP applications may not necessarily be the best approaches from a public safety, consumer utility, or technology perspective for mobile-based VoIP services like UMA.

Accordingly, while we support the VON Coalition position that the Commission should defer adoption of rules for nomadic VoIP services, we would like the Commission to recognize that there is nothing to be lost and much to be gained from deferring action on 9-1-1 regulations in particular for UMA and other mobile VoIP services. If the Commission wishes to address these services, raising them in a Further Notice, perhaps with an expedited pleading schedule, is by far the better way to go. Such an approach will ensure the most workable, effective E9-1-1 system is put in place for these emerging new technologies.

Pursuant to Commission Rule 1.49(f), this *ex parte* letter is being filed electronically via the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System for inclusion in the public record of the above-referenced docket.

Sincerely,

/s/Thomas J. Sugrue

Vice President, Government Affairs

cc (*via electronic mail*)

Michelle Carey

Dan Gonzalez

Tom Navin